



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 2

February 2011

www.circlecranch.info

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CCHOA Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 8th 6:30pm
Kiker Elementary Cafeteria
Check-in @ 6:00pm

The Circle C Homeowners Association will hold its' Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30pm at Kiker Elementary. In order to call the meeting to order and conduct business we need a 10% quorum. You will find the ballot and proxy on the back of your February 2011 Assessment. If you cannot attend the meeting, PLEASE assign your proxy to a neighbor so that it counts towards the quorum. There will be a Board Election with two open board seats to be filled. The Nominating Committee will host a Candidate Forum in February, date to be determined and posted on the HOA website along with the Candidate Questionnaires.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN CIRCLE C RANCH:

Two new subdivisions are in the process of being added to the Circle C Homeowners Association through the provisions provided by the Conditions, Covenants, and Restrictions of Circle C Ranch. These are areas that were added in 2000 with the Bradley Parties Settlement Agreement under the 42nd or 43rd amendment to the CCRs. As they are now being construction, they are activated in the CCHOA by the filing of a supplemental amendment which details specifics of the subdivision. The first area is the two parcels of land at the front of Circle C North. The east side parcel, Barstow Village will have six homes and the west side parcel, Barstow Court will have 22 homes. All homes will be 100% masonry and homes on the west side will range from 1750 to 3200 square feet depending on lot size. Landscape and wall improvements will be required and approved by the Architectural Control Committee.

The other area is located south of Escarpment across SH 45. It is a subdivision of 163 lots located on the northern portion of what is known as Avana. The homes will be 100% masonry and range in square footage from 1800 to 3400 square feet. The owner is Standard Pacific and it will be the builder as well. All common improvements such as walls, fences, landscaping will be approved by the Architectural Control Committee.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Mar 1 : First ½ Annual Assessment Due
Mar 8: Annual Meeting
Mar 13: New Spring Pool Hours in Effect



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CCHOA NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Office info@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
 Financial Office 451-9901
 Aquatics Director 288-4239
 Newsletter Publisher

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Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

Circle C Amenities

Circle C Café 288-6058

Circle C CDC..... 288-9792

Circle C Swim Center 288-6057

Circle C Tennis Club General@CircleCTennis.com, 301-8685

Sub Association Info:

KB Enclave and Fairway Estates HOA

Karen Hibpsman, CMCA, Manager 347-2891

Parkwest HOA

Goodwin Management 502-7509

Streetman Enclave HOA

K.O. Orsak 646-6739

Muirfield HOA

Sara Huff 219-1927

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brad Compere Board Member

Contact the board at directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Austin Solid Waste 974-1945

Dead Animal Collection..... 974-2000

Abandoned Vehicle..... 974-8119

Pothole Complaints..... 974-8750

Stop Signs 457-4885

Street Light Outage 505-7617

Schools

Clayton Elementary 841-9200

Kiker Elementary 414-2584

Gozycki Middle School..... 841-8600

Small Middle School 841-6700

Bowie High School 414-5247

SAYSA..... 899-1049

ARTICLE INFO

The Circle C Ranch newsletter is mailed monthly to all Circle C Ranch residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

If you have an article of interest to the community please submit to info@circlecranch.info by the 10th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.circlecranch.info.

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make the Circle C Ranch Newsletter possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. at 512-263-9181 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

MISSION STATEMENT

Peel, Inc. Community Newsletters

Our goal is to provide the Circle C Ranch community with one source of local news content that is provided by Circle C residents. Our goal is to help build Circle C by connecting local businesses with residents and residents with relevant neighborhood information.

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MARY KAY

It's Time: 2011 Offers Golden Opportunity



Not intended to solicit properties currently for sale.

Homeowners Live with the Payment, Not the Price.

Believe it or not, the average mortgage rate near the end of 2010 was less than half the 30-year average of 9%. The combination of historically low rates and more attractive prices means that homes are generally more affordable today than at any time in the last 40 years. As a result, more families have the chance to buy a home and benefit from reasonable housing payments for many years to come.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal Classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Circle C Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail to info@circlecranch.info.

Business Classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$65, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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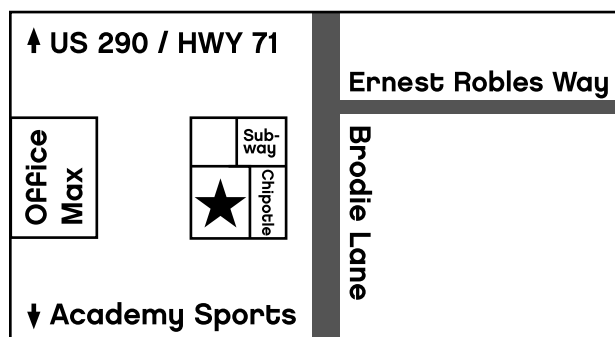
February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Newsletter Article Deadline	11	12
13	14  Valentine's Day!	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



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Whether it's **dine-in, take-out, delivery or catering, Sunday-Thursday 11am-9 pm, Friday & Saturday 11 am-10 pm**, stop in to see what Austin is buzzing about!

- * Fast & Fresh Delivery / Take-out
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- * Party sizes for every occasion

HOA Manager Announcements:

Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, CCHOA Mgr.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED A DEED RESTRICTION NOTICE?

As reported in each month's newsletter, the HOA staff drives at least two sections of the neighborhood per month to note violations of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. These commonly include: front yard landscape maintenance (mowing, edging, free of weeds), home maintenance (paint, screens, siding) and recreational vehicles (boats, RV's, trailers) parked in the driveway. The HOA is required by state law to notify owners in writing via certified mail and allow for the homeowner to request a hearing before the board of directors. If you receive a letter, please contact us at the HOA office and let us know your individual situation. We would like to work with you to bring your home into compliance. If you would like to report a violation, you can do so via our website at www.circlecranch.info

HOLIDAY LIGHTS & DECORATIONS – REMINDER

If you haven't already, please take down all of your holiday lighting and decorations per the rules in the governing documents (lights and decorations should be removed by January 15th). Thank you for your cooperation.

PRINTED HOMEOWNER DIRECTORY DISCONTINUED

In an effort to conserve paper, the Association will no longer print a

Homeowner Directory. We know many of you utilize the directory to communicate with your neighbors and friends; however we already have this resource available on our website under "Resident Directory". Residents MUST opt into the directory with information such as phone numbers, email address, etc. You can search by name or by address. If a resident is unable to access the website, they can call the HOA for assistance.

SAFETY AWARENESS

Unfortunately some of you have been victim of vandalism and/or theft this past year so we wanted to ask everyone to be as proactive as possible to deter crime in Circle C. The City of Austin Police Department has these suggestions for deterring vandalism and theft from your property:

1. Install a deadbolt lock.

Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant. Lock your doors every time you leave the house, even if you're leaving for just a few minutes during the day. The most popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours. In over 1/3 of burglaries, there is no forcible entry--someone forgot to lock the doors.

2. Install solid doors.

Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1 3/4 inches thick.

Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.

3. Keep garage doors closed and locked.

4. Secure sliding doors and windows.

Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both casings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.

5. Secure sash windows.

To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a pin or nail. To prevent aluminum sash windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.



6. Mark your property.

Mark your valuables with an engraver. Marking your property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property. Make a property identification list. Put warning stickers on doors and windows.

7. Purchase a burglar alarm.

A home alarm system can be a very effective burglary deterrent and fit into many people's needs. Remember to test your system monthly.

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John Squires is the **#1** real estate agent in Circle C Ranch, with over **350** homes **"SOLD!"** in C.C. **#10** out of Austin's **"Top 50"** teams and 9,000 other agents in central Texas. **#2** team in Keller Williams Southwest Market Center! Austin, Texas resident since 1963.



6421 Aden Lane—"SOLD!" in "zero" days before coming on the market!



15210 Kevin Lane—"SOLD!" in 1 day on market with John's "move-down" plan!

"We know several real estate agents personally, but decided to hire John Squires because of his sales track record in Circle C Ranch. We did not want tons of people through the house so we implemented John's "Circle C Silent Market" strategy and it worked! We sold our home before coming on the regular market and used John's empty-nester, move-down program to buy our new home! We could not be happier with the whole process and the Squires Team. Thanks John!" Stephen and Nellie Moe 6421 Aden Lane

Hey Circle C! What a difference a month makes! Homes are starting to slowly come back on the market as sellers are gaining more confidence. As the story went in the above photos, there are many different marketing techniques we employ to market our client's homes. The "silent market" is when we have the listing, but it is not on the m.l.s. for one reason or another. One reason is the seller just wants to "test the market". We will market your home, do open houses, flyers, the whole deal, EXCEPT put it on the m.l.s., where it could rack up days-on-market. (Of course, we can put it in the computer at any time to provide full marketing instantly on the m.l.s.) This allows the sellers to "get a feel" for what the buyers are thinking about the home, price, etc. and not have the "hassle" of unqualified buyers tromping through the home all week. Busy parents with kids would have plenty of time to make the house ready and qualified buyers are brought through by appointment only. I communicate with many of the top agents in the area and make them aware of the listing. Listings marketed "before" coming on the m.l.s. sometimes sell for more money, because the buyer feels they are getting a priority, first look at the house and it tends to keep the price up. If you would like more information on all of the Squires Team's marketing techniques, please give John Squires a call!



Call John's **"Sell Phone"** at (512) 970-1970 for a free, no obligation market analysis on your valuable Circle C Ranch property.

- Easy appointments, 7 days a week and nights.
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"UNDER CONTRACT!" 5226 Austral Loop John's listing, former model home. Backs to greenbelt!

CCHOA News

HOA Manager Announcements- (Continued from Page 6)

8. Leave a light on.

When leaving on trips, leave a light on in the bathroom. In the bedroom, attach a lamp and radio to a 24-hour electric timer set to go on at dusk and off at your bedtime. Close bedroom drapes or blinds.

9. Use proper exterior lighting.

Place a light over every door. Double cones lights on each corner of the house will also light up windows.

10. Work together with your neighbors.

When you are going to be away, tell trusted neighbors and ask them to watch your property. Have neighbors maintain your yard. When on vacation, have someone cut grass. Shrubbery should not hide neighbors' view of windows or doors. Have someone pick up newspapers and mail. Tell neighbors to call police if they notice anything suspicious.

Get Involved: If you would like to become more involved with APD's Neighborhood Watch Training, you can attend, "Train The Trainer" series held the 2ND Tuesday of each month, 6:30p.m.-8:00p.m. at the Clinton Hunter Substation, 404 Ralph Ablanado, (Between Congress and S. 1st Street – 1 Block North of Slaughtert).

A three part series that repeats see schedule below:

February 8, 2011 Part I – Introduction to Neighborhood Watch
March 8, 2011 Part II – Physical Security
April 12, 2011 Part III – James the Burglar Video and Guest Speaker TBD

May 10, 2011 Part I – Introduction to Neighborhood Watch
June 14, 2011 Part II – Physical Security
July 12, 2011 Part III – James the Burglar Video and Guest Speaker TBD

August 9, 2011 Part I – Introduction to Neighborhood Watch
September 13, 2011 Part II – Physical Security
October 11, 2011 Part III – James the Burglar Video and Guest Speaker TBD

No Train the Trainer November, December and January

CITY OF AUSTIN WASTEWATER AVERAGING

Wastewater Averaging runs from mid-November through mid-March. The information below has been pulled from the City of Austin website. For helpful links on how to calculate your wastewater average, to find your 2011 schedule and view frequently asked questions, log onto: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wwaverage/default.htm>

(Continued on Page 9)



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HOA Manager Announcements- (Continued from Page 8)

What comes in generally must go out. The Austin Water Utility calculates wastewater costs on the amount of water you use during three winter billing periods (months). Since very little outside water is used during these months, it is a good measure of the volume flowing through your wastewater system. Now is the time to conserve.

You can lower your wastewater costs for the next year by conserving your water usage during the 3 monthly billing periods used to calculate your wastewater flow. Depending on your billing cycle, the 3 periods used for wastewater averaging will occur between mid-November and mid-March.

For more information on wastewater averaging refer to the link above.

ANNUAL MEETING

The association's annual meeting is the best opportunity for you to learn about this year's events and get caught up on everything happening in your community. Here are a few agenda items and meeting activities you won't want to miss:

- Meet board members and HOA staff.
- Get an update on all current and future scheduled projects.
- Review the proposed budget, and hear the association treasurer explain how your assessments are being used and reserves are being invested.

Be an active community resident and attend the annual meeting. Come introduce yourself to the board, the manager and your neighbors and find a wealth of information about your community!

VANDALISM

The Association has seen a slight increase in vandalism to HOA property the past few months. Occurrences include vandalism to the Wildflower Park Playscape (abuse of swings, profanity sketched into the playscape plastic, major damage to landscape lighting) and to the Swim Center park area (abuse of picnic tables, trash cans, wrought iron gate). While our video surveillance has not been able to identify anyone for these occurrences, we have determined that it is youth and not adults. We are asking residents to keep their eyes open for any of this type of behavior and to report to the HOA immediately; we are asking parents to talk with their children about this type of crime and to encourage them to report to their parents if they witness this behavior.

While none of these occurrences have resulted in "major" damage, they are taking valuable HOA resources to correct – in total about \$1200 has been spent to repair.



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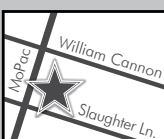
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CIRCLE C SWIM CENTER NEWS

Submitted by Ashley Gladden



WE ARE NOW ONLINE!

We'd like to start off this month's newsletter with some exciting news... our website has been updated! You can now find all Circle C Swim Center information online at our website, <http://www.circlecranch.info> and click on Swim Center. Here you can find information about all upcoming programs, swim teams, hours of operation, pool rules, membership, policies, staff, contacts, and more. We will also be providing most of our forms online now. You can even complete the form online, provide an electronic signature, and submit it to us through email at customerservice@circlecranch.info. Our hope is that information will be more accessible for all residents at any time of day. If there is anything that you don't see on the website that you'd like to, let us know! We'll try our best to add it on for you.

NEW OPTION FOR GUEST PUNCH PASSES

An option that we've offered for a while now is a Guest Punch Pass. Normally, guest fees are \$3 per guest per visit. The

punch passes allow residents the option to buy passes in bulk at a discounted rate. In addition to the 25 guest punch pass for \$40, we are now offering a 10 guest punch pass for \$25. This equals \$1.60 and \$2.50 per guest respectively, when you use the punch pass, and the passes never expire. The pass is assigned directly to your membership account, so there is nothing extra to remember. Your guest just needs to have a Guest Information Form on file at the Swim Center, which can be found on our new, updated website. This is a great option for residents who bring guests and would like to save a few dollars.

FIND YOUR POOL ID

Many of you know how busy it can get at the Swim Center during the Spring and Summer seasons. You may have experienced the long line out the door of the office when multiple people are trying to check in at once. This is partially due to residents checking in without their pool ID cards. When residents check-in without their pool ID, we have to search for each family member individually,

verify the information, and check them in. This can really slow down the check-in process for everyone. As of January 1, 2011, the Swim Center has implemented the following policy in hopes of reducing the line by making the check-in process quicker, so you and your family can jump in the pool even faster.

Residents age 4 and older are issued an individual Swim Center membership card. Everyone will now receive three free passes to enter the pool deck without your pool ID card. Once a member has used these three passes, they will have to purchase a new card at a replacement fee of \$3, or you will not be allowed admittance to the pool deck. When everyone has their card, it makes checking-in a lot faster. We understand many of you bring your pool ID each time you visit, and we'd like to thank you! For those of you who have misplaced your card, now would be a great time to look around for it. If you can't find it, we can reprint it for you on your next visit for \$3 so that you are ready for future visits. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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SEND US YOUR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Don't forget to send us your membership update. We are asking all current Circle C residents to send us a new, up-to-date household pass form to ensure accurate information for emergency purposes. For your convenience, this form has been emailed to all current members, and you can also download it from the Swim Center section of the Circle C Ranch website, www.circlecranch.info. There is no need to stop by the Swim Center to turn in the form, just fill in the blanks, sign the form electronically and email it to customerservice@circlecranch.info! Thank you in advance for your patience with this update. We truly believe this will help ensure the safety and quality of your family's every visit to the Swim Center.

CIRCLE C SELECT SWIM TEAM

We would like to congratulate the swimmers of the Circle C Select Swim Team for making it through the colder winter months. Also, congratulations to the swimmers who participated in the Champs meets. Good job, team!

Don't forget about the following events:

- February 11-13, BB Champs Meet at Incarnate World, San Antonio
- February 19-20, Texas Gold Best Times Trophy Meet, open to any swimmers who didn't qualify for the Champs meet, in Georgetown

- We would also like to send out special birthday wishes to the following swimmers who have birthdays in February: Natalie Ownby (1st), Sophia Fontana (13th), Forrest Hammel (13th), Emily Ownby (15th), Anna Smiley (19th), Talia Hanley (20th), Lindsay Stites (25th), and Alexandra Bellsnyder (27th).


Remember, it's never too late to join the Circle C Select Swim Team. If you are interested, you can learn more about the team on their website, <http://select.ccsxim.net/>, or you can also find information on our updated website.

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Private Reserve Wine Cellar by Cuisinart. Used but in great condition. Exterior is stainless with a dark window. Holds 12 bottles. Dimensions - 16 1/2" W X 17" deep X 16 1/2" High. \$50 OBO Call 512-551-9254

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Circle C Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail to info@circlecranch.info.




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Tab Collection

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who is in the habit of collecting their aluminum soda can tabs! As the picture indicates, we are receiving many aluminum soda can tabs in the management office so please DO NOT throw your cans away without taking off the tabs. The tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas. To read more about the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas, you can visit <http://www.rmhc-austin.org/> Thank you to resident Bob Hendee for volunteering his time to this effort.

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Circle C Landscape Report

Submitted by Susan Hoover, owner, Circle C Landscape

I am writing this on the coldest day of winter that we have had so far. All of our landscaping is quiet and "sleeping". On the commons areas, we are busy trimming and mulching, making sure that everything gets cut back properly so when Spring turns up in about five or six weeks, they plants will begin their new cycle of growing in proper form.

February is a busy time for landscaping and gardening. In your own yard, you can complete many tasks such as a final clean up of all the leaves and debris from the winter, trimming back perennials, having a professional prune your live oak trees, giving the lawn a good raking, and freshening up the mulch areas of your yard. Also, if you have overgrown shrubs, now is a great time to give them a major cutback if you want them more manageable. You can find a great article about pruning in general at the Texas A & M Horticultural Extension webpage: <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/publications/landscape/pruning/pruning.html>

Once your cleanup is finished, you will be tempted to go buy a lot of fertilizer for your lawn. We encourage you to hold off on fertilizing until the grass is actively growing. That way the fertilizer is absorbed by the grass and doesn't just sit there and run off during a rain. We usually fertilize around the first of April.

For 2011, the Circle C Homeowners Association Board has approved various projects to be done under the capital budget improvements. These funds are for the continued renovation of the commons areas in order for all areas to meet the goals of the Green Community Landscape Model for Circle C Ranch commons areas. The goals include replacing high water plant materials with drought tolerant species, limiting turf area, installing drought tolerant turf in replacement areas where designated, and updating our irrigation system to meet and exceed the requirements of the City of Austin Water Conservation ordinance. We have been very successful in overhauling the aging irrigation system and the result has been continuous savings in our water budget. In 2010, we were approximately 25% under our water budget. Some of this was due to the heavy rains we had in July and September, however we entered drought conditions later in the fall that have extended into the winter.

I am concerned that we may be entering another drought period, which is hard on both the landscaping and the landscapers! We monitor the weather and weather patterns extensively in order to prepare as well as possible. However, long term drought is very challenging and since we like everything to look its best, it is difficult when nature doesn't help us out. So, as we look forward to Spring, let's hope that we get a little moisture to go with it!

Newly Planted Trees

If you have trees that have been planted for 12 months, they are now well established and it is time to remove the stakes and support wires. The support wires may harm your trees and restrict growth.

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Park West HOA News

Park West HOA News (Specifically for Park West Residents) *Submitted by Jackie Rollins*

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As this newsletter arrives, the time is fast approaching for Park West HOA's annual meeting at Kiker Elementary School on Tuesday, February 8, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration. Be sure to attend. An election is being held for four Board directors - practically an entire Board! - and your votes are needed! If you don't plan on attending, please assign your proxy to a friend or neighbor. Every vote counts. The candidates named by the Nominating Committee are: Michael Harris, John Lowe, Jack Robinson and Bernadette Tasher. There are one 3-year term, two 2-year terms and one 1-year term to be filled. The candidates' campaign statements can be found on the Park West website and

with the notification of annual meeting packet sent to all homeowners by Goodwin Management.

AT&T WORK UPDATE

Based on a conversation with AT&T's digging crew leader on January 6, their part of the work is finished. They have completed the following:

- Repaired sprinklers that were disturbed in the process.
- Replaced soil and compacted with a mechanical compactor all holes in the lawn areas and placed new sod in the areas where sod was damaged.
- Replaced fill and compacted with a mechanical compactor the five openings in our streets.
- Topped off the compacted fill in the street openings with concrete (approximately 12-

15 inches) up to the underside of the current asphalt street paving.

- Put a temporary "cold patch" in the five street holes.

And sometime in the next week or so, weather permitting, an asphalt contractor is to open the asphalt up to City of Austin "repair specifications" (about the size of the metal plates used during construction) and permanently repair our streets.

It is suggested that homeowners whose yard or sprinklers were disturbed look at the work completed and, weather permitting, test the sprinkler zone that was disturbed.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the work done, please e-mail one of the Board members whose contact information is listed on the Park West website and on both mail

(Continued on Page 17)

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Exp. 02/28/11

Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 16)

center bulletin boards. The Board will compile your comments and concerns and present them to AT&T to further restore areas in which they worked to their original condition.

WHY I PICKED PARK WEST FOR MY AUSTIN HOME

Submitted by Michael Harris. We have been in Park West since mid-September. One of the first things I did was volunteer to be a Board member, from October until annual meeting and election in February. I have been asked by more than a few people why I volunteered to be on the Board when I had just arrived in both Austin and Park West. My answer is really based on why I picked Park West for my Austin home.

We have visited Austin the past four winters to visit my wife Jan's family. Each year we spent a little more time, culminating in staying two months last winter in a downtown condo to confirm in our minds that Austin was truly the place that we could be comfortable living during our retirement years. In addition to visiting family, Jan played tennis with as many different groups as she could find. We also explored the arts, music, food and culture of the downtown area. Town Lake, Zilker Park, Barton Creek all provided wonderful outdoor activities to enjoy in the "milder than Atlanta" winter climate. What we didn't like was the downtown traffic and the city ambient noise.

(Continued on Page 18)

February is Dental Month

In celebration of National Pet Dental Health month, we are offering **15% off dental cleanings.**

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Park West HOA News

Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 17)

During the four winter visits, we explored neighborhoods all over Austin to get a feel for the city. We looked at over two hundred homes and kept coming back to Circle C and Park West, a neighborhood that we looked at during our first visit in 2007. Here we found the proximity to wonderful restaurants, incredible music venues and all sorts of outdoor activities while having the quiet of the country and the night sky of the Hill Country. The fun things in downtown and around UT are only a 15-to-20 minute drive away if you pick your times and routes. Being avid gardeners, having the Wildflower Center for both visual appreciation and the full complement of classes is a huge plus.

I'm a casual bike rider so bike lanes, wide streets that wind through interesting neighborhoods and the Veloway for a good workout all enable me to enjoy biking without the challenges of city traffic. I'm also a walker, so I really enjoyed a nice morning walk through the neighborhood and then out to Starbucks. Seeing landscaping that is very different from the Southeast makes my daily five miles pleasant and varied from week to week as the seasons progress.

As I walk and ride my bike, it is very clear to me that our original thoughts of a community with the CC&Rs of both Circle C and Park West were good on a number of levels. Our neighborhoods

just look nicer than many of the other neighborhoods of Austin, most with housing prices higher than in our area. Park West, with the common landscape service, is even a notch above the rest of the area in that it looks consistent from house to house all of the time. Well, maybe not when we had AT&T's dirt piles everywhere.

I also am comfortable knowing that in past communities that we lived in with these attributes, the value of my home investment stayed strong relative to other areas in the same city. We are past the working life that had us relocating frequently, but it is still comforting to have an asset that will grow in our current economic climate. I also fully understand that with the CC&Rs came important restrictions that we read, acknowledged and accepted before we purchased our home. I believe that these are a fair trade-off compared to the "do what ever you want to do regardless of the impact on your neighbor" potential that existed in many other neighborhoods that we looked at.

So as a "restricted neighborhood" we have all surrendered a little bit of our freedom as it relates to our property to gain the benefits of a pleasant surrounding, like-minded neighbors and a comfort level that if we all work together as a neighborhood, our investment will stay strong. And that brings me full circle; pardon the pun. I

(Continued on Page 19)

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Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 18)

volunteered for the Board so I can actively work to preserve what I was fortunate enough to join through the excellent selection of our retirement home. It has had the collateral benefit of accelerating the pace of meeting our new neighbors who, for the most part, I find are very like-minded.

RULES REVISITED

- The speed limit on all Park West streets is 20 mph. There are signs. Please slow down.
- Remove those unsightly oil or rust stains on your driveway as part of routine driveway/Street Yard Area maintenance.

HELPING HANDS

Tell us about your favorite charity or volunteer efforts. E-mail a few lines to JackieRollins02@aol.com.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

This is your column and your input is important. Without it, there wouldn't be a column. So, please contact Jackie Rollins at 301-1839 or JackieRollins02@aol.com with your suggestions and items of interest.

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Clubs & Announcements

Gorzycki Tiger Team

Submitted by Melinda McKenna

Gorzycki is forming our second annual Tiger team that will participate in the Capitol 10k run this year. This is a 6 mile run around downtown Austin on Sunday March, 27. The Middle School Challenge registration form is available from Coach P in the gym, or as a download online at <http://www.statesman.com/cap10k/registration-1024944.html>

Registration forms and payment are due Feb 25. Cost for registration is \$15.00 which includes shirt.

Email Coach P for more info jpetkovs@austinisd.org

MOMS Club of Austin - SW

Submitted by Kim Gallant

Are you new to the area or a new mom who wants to get out and meet new people? We're a friendly, active support group just for you, the stay-at-home mom. We are the International MOMS Club with a chapter in your neighborhood. We offer a variety of activities, play dates, outings, educational speakers and most importantly, support. For more information, email swaustinmomsclub@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

at the Wildflower Center

SIGN UP FOR GO NATIVE U

Learn to garden with native plants. Six classes in designing, selecting, installing and maintaining native plants and one on pest control taught by experienced horticulturists at the Wildflower Center. Discounts for taking the entire six-class sequence and for Wildflower Center members. Classes start March 26. Registration is open at www.wildflower.org/gontativeu.

FLOWERS IN ART

Through March 13

"Still Life", paintings by the talented Stella Alesi and "High Resolution Composite Floral Photographs" by Richard Reynolds, a nationally-known photographer, in the McDermott Learning Center

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February 12 and 13

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Circle C Tennis News

Submitted by: Fernando Velasco, General Manager, Circle C Tennis Club.



"CIRCLE C MEMBERS DONATE TOYS FOR SANTA"

The Circle C Tennis Club hosted a tennis Mixer on December 17 where players were asked to donate an unwrapped new toy to be donated to children in Austin. There were so many toys given, that the gifts were split between the "Blue Santa" and "Brown Santa" organizations. Thanks to their generosity many children woke up with smiles on their faces on Christmas Day. This Mixer and drive has been a yearly event for the Club.



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Clubs & Announcements



Your Circle C neighbors encourage you to support the arts and attend their February 12th all-star dance performance, "BRAVO!"

14 of your neighbors are members of the youth dance companies at Dance Xplosion, the dance studio with locations in Escarpment Village near Starbucks and Bank of America. BRAVO! is the exciting annual showcase for the dance companies. Choreographed to some of your favorite songs from Broadway, Hollywood and MTV, you will be dazzled by the talents of 43 of Austin's finest young dancers. From jazz to tap, lyrical to musical theatre, this year's BRAVO! show will have you singing and moving your feet in your seat!

BRAVO! is appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$10 each. You can purchase

tickets at Dance Xplosion, at the box office, or by contacting one of your Circle C dancers/neighbors (highly encouraged).

SHOWTIME & LOCATION

Saturday, February 12, 2011

6pm-8pm

Hays Performing Arts Center

Directions from Circle C: Slaughter Lane east to Brodie Lane, turn right onto Brodie and travel south for 5 minutes until the light at FM1626, turn right onto FM1626 and travel south on FM1626 for 10 minutes, Hays PAC is on the right/west side of FM1626)

CIRCLE C PERFORMERS

contact for tickets

- Abigail (Shelley Adam, mom): 512-789-7359
- Kaleigh-Rayne (Tammy Chambers, mom): 512-924-9626

- Catarina (Delma Chavanne, mom): 512-382-1509
- Camryn (Cyndi Christenson, mom): 805-300-1900
- Jade (Shawna Fattouh, mom): 512-771-8888
- Shay (Sandy Gist, mom): 512-680-8070
- Sierra (Heather Greenberg, mom): 512-695-6002
- Olivia (Jennifer Hanna, mom): 512-576-9503
- Landry (Liz Jenkins, mom): 512-653-3186
- Andrea (Miriam Lee, mom): 512-771-7986
- M.E. (Elizabeth Powell, mom): 512-970-7583
- Riley (Kasey Rhodes, mom): 512-809-8436
- Noa and Avery (Tara Shelton, mom): 512-554-6904
- Lauren (Stacey Thomas, mom): 817-975-4891

ABOUT THE DANCERS

Dance Xplosion Companies are formed of select dancers who desire to perform, compete and train at a more intense level, all while forming long-lasting friendships and becoming part of a close knit family. Dance styles include jazz, lyrical/contemporary, tap, hip-hop, musical theater and/or ballet. Each year Company members perform at numerous community events, attend several competitions, and challenge themselves at conventions and workshops where they learn from the country's top dance instructors. Importantly, Dance Xplosion's Company Members grow daily as dancers and as individuals.

Austin Newcomers Club February Luncheon

Austin Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Join us at our monthly luncheon as well as take the opportunity to learn about and become involved in many varied fun Interest groups.

Time: 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

Date: February 16, 2011 (Reservations required by Thursday, February 10th)

For Luncheon Reservations email: LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com or Diane Israelson 512-467-4979

For other Newcomers information

visit www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: RECOUNTING MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II

Isabelle Cedar Cook was born and raised in Amityville, New York. On September 1, 1939, when WW II was declared, Isabelle was a young woman living in New York City having just graduated from the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing. The Army asked Mount Sinai Hospital for assistance and the hospital issued a call for volunteers.

Being unattached at the time, Isabelle felt it was her duty to serve. She immediately signed up without telling her family or receiving permission from her mother who was a widow with five children. Then she waited impatiently to be called for service. In September, 1942 she got that call asking her report to Camp Rucker, Alabama.

Thus, Isabelle entered one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, marked by horrific events including the Holocaust and the first and only use of nuclear weapons. On May 5, 1943, Isabelle boarded the HMS Pasteur, a former French luxury ship being used to transport troops. When out to sea, she learned her destination: Casablanca, Morocco. She had never before been abroad or even outside New York and New Jersey. As a member of the Army Nurse Corps, Isabelle served overseas for three years. After the war ended, Isabelle was discharged from the Army as a First Lieutenant and she returned to civilian life. She got married and moved to Brownsville, Texas.

Isabelle Cook wrote a book about nurses' experiences in a fictionalized memoir, *In times of War: Memoirs of a World War II Nurse*. She also participated in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. She also wrote *Depression's Child*, a story told from a young girl's point of view about growing up during the Depression. She will share her experiences as a WW II nurse serving in North Africa, Italy and France.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Tips for Enjoying Networking Events

Submitted by Amy Wolfgang, M.Ed.

Many of us know someone who is in the midst of a job search. They may be looking for their first job after graduating, a new job after being laid off, or a totally new career. Job seekers use many different avenues to find a job but one of the most effective is networking. It is one thing to speak with your neighbor about opportunities at his or her company but, eventually, many job seekers will need to utilize different networking events.

Great opportunities are found at networking events but, at the same time, they can be intimidating because we may not know anyone there. Networking events can strike fear in many people, even those with outgoing personalities, so here are a few tips on how to make networking events more pleasant, less overwhelming and more productive.

TIP 1: TAKE A DEEP BREATH

Remember that many people are uncomfortable at networking events. It is much more prevalent than you probably know. With that said, go into the event with a relaxed and positive frame of mind. Identify how you relax – taking deep breaths, visualizing a positive experience, etc. Employ those methods before you enter the networking event.

TIP 2: APPEAR APPROACHABLE

Smile! If you have a smile on your face, others will be encouraged to speak with you. Other open body language you should employ includes:

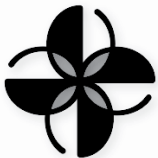

- keeping your arms uncrossed
- standing up straight (don't slouch)
- making eye contact with those around you

While you are at the event, take notice of others' body language. See if you can tell what aspect of their body language makes them look either approachable or closed off. That will help you with your own body language.

TIP 3: UTILIZE THE EVENT ACTIVITIES

The toughest networking scenario is when you don't know anyone at the event and go by yourself. In this case, try to use the activities or functions at the event to your advantage. Does the event have a bar or buffet? Once you are in the food or beverage line, begin speaking to someone also in line. Are you at an art gallery? Approach a piece of art and chat about it with someone else who is also looking at it. It's much easier to speak to people when you already have some common ground.

(Continued on Page 25)



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Tips for Enjoying Networking Events- (Continued from Page 24)

Networking isn't easy and intimidates many people, however, it can lead to a powerful advantage over other job hunters! Hopefully the tips above give you the confidence to attend networking events. Who knows, you might really enjoy meeting new people and be surprised at the doors it opens for you!

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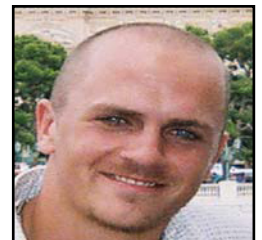
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News You Can Use

Fitting in Fitness: Making Time for Exercise

Submitted by Sarah S. Jordan, MS

Finding time for exercise can be an ongoing challenge in our busy lives. We know that exercise will benefit our bodies and minds in many ways and that we should do it. But actually finding the time and making it happen can be difficult.

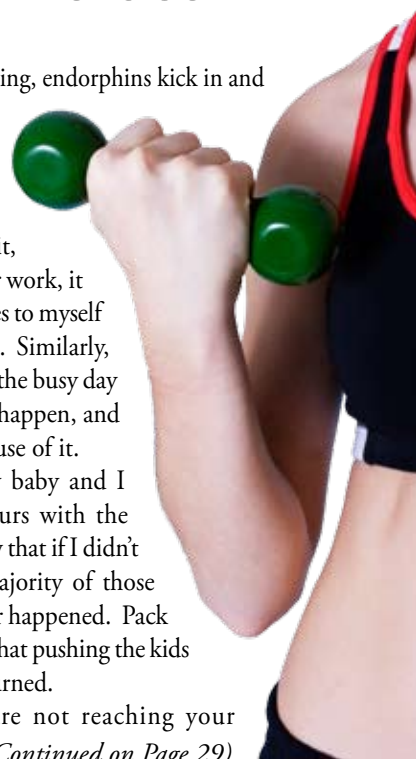
Here are a few tips to help you fit in fitness in the New Year.

- Remember that any movement is better than none. If you only have 15 minutes each day to go for a power walk, those 15 minutes will equal 105 minutes (almost two hours) by the end of the week, 420 minutes (seven hours) of exercise each month and 91 hours of exercise a year! Small things can add up to big victories over time.
- Find what works for you. For some people, a gym membership is very convenient. For others, it may not be convenient to their location, budget, job, or family. If that is the case, see if your neighborhood has any exercise groups, hire a personal trainer that will come to you, or start your own lunchtime workout group for added camaraderie and accountability.
- Schedule exercise into your week. Workouts are much more likely to happen if we put them in our calendars. Schedule workouts as you would important business meetings or doctor appointments.
- Remember that sometimes, the hardest thing to get is going. Many times, just getting our shoes on and getting out the door is the hardest part of a

workout. Once we are moving, endorphins kick in and we feel great for moving.

- Make use of the early hours. I used to dread getting up at 5:20 every morning. But now I love it, because after I get ready for work, it guarantees me a few minutes to myself before anyone else is awake. Similarly, getting workouts in before the busy day kicks off ensures that they happen, and the day will be better because of it.
- Take the kids along. My baby and I have logged countless hours with the jogging stroller. But I know that if I didn't take him with me, the majority of those workouts would have never happened. Pack up the kids and remember that pushing the kids will mean more calories burned.
- Don't give up. If you are not reaching your

(Continued on Page 29)



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Fitting in Fitness-

(Continued from Page 28)

goals, determine what is not working and create a roadmap to resolve it. Remember that fitness is a lifestyle and it goes through ups and downs, but always benefits us if we persevere.

- Make the time that you do have count. If you have just thirty minutes three days a week, step up the intensity of those workouts to get the most you can for your time. Add intervals and hills, or find a fitness class or DVD that offers a combination of cardio and strength training.

Wishing you a happy and movement filled 2011!

SILVERFISH

Submitted by Wizzie Brown • AgriLIFE EXTENSION, Texas A&M System

I recently noticed silverfish lurking in my house after I put away my holiday decorations, so I'm sure others may have the same problem. Silverfish can eat and stain books, fabrics, food and wallpaper, but are often considered being more of a nuisance than a pest. These insects have flattened carrot-shaped bodies with three long "tails" that come off the tip of the abdomen. The body is covered with fine scales that give them a silver sheen. Immatures look just like the adults, only smaller in size.

Usually silverfish are not seen by homeowners because they tend to be active at night. They can commonly be found in attics, closets or near bookcases. They will often be found behind baseboards or around door and window casings. Silverfish feed on starchy foods like paper, flour, oats or glue.

Tips for managing silverfish:

- Remove old books, papers & magazines
- Store items in sealed, plastic bags or containers

- Clean closets on a regular basis
- Reduce humidity with fans, air conditioning or dehumidifiers
- Repair and water leaks
- Inspect all items before bringing them into the house
- Target treatments to where silverfish live- wall voids, closets, attics, behind baseboards, etc.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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News You Can Use

Cycling from Austin to Alaska to Fight Cancer

Submitted by Will Ragan

My name is Will Ragan and I am from Floresville, Texas, a small town just south of San Antonio. I am writing to you today because this summer I am cycling from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska to fight cancer.

Yes, you read that correctly. I am not crazy, but am a member of the 2011 LiveSTRONG Texas 4000 for Cancer team. We are a group of fifty-six students from the University of Texas at Austin who is working hard to raise money and awareness for the fight against cancer. Next summer, my team and I will embark upon a 4,500 mile trek across North America in hopes of inspiring communities across the nation to help in the battle against cancer. Starting June 4th, 2011, we will cycle through various communities, make cancer awareness presentations, and educate people on cancer prevention and early detection. By sharing our experiences and enthusiasm, we will work to foster hope among those who are personally suffering from this disease. Additionally, we hope to contribute over \$400,000 to cancer research with the American Cancer Society and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Each rider is responsible for raising \$4,500. Please consider being a part of our group and sharing in our enthusiasm by making a much appreciated donation. Besides helping in a meaningful cause, your donation will be entirely tax-deductible as we are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The proceeds from our event will go towards research for finding a cure for our nation's second leading cause of death. If you are so generous as to make a monetary contribution to support our cause, please send checks to the address below, made payable to Texas 4000 with my name (Will Ragan) on the "payment for" line. I highly encourage you to visit our website, www.texas4000.org, for much more information or contact me with any questions that you may have. If you prefer to donate online you can do so from our team website by clicking on "Donate" and then the "Make a Donation" button and through PayPal, you can make a donation with your credit card. Don't forget: Put "Will Ragan" in the "Purpose" field, so I can receive credit for your donation. Anything you decide to donate will be greatly appreciated - no amount is too small.



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Central	\$ 102	\$ 111	\$ 110	\$ 104	\$ 106	2.52%	1.18%
North	\$ 114	\$ 130	\$ 127	\$ 127	\$ 125	(1.44%)	2.42%
Wildflower	\$ 115	\$ 122	\$ 125	\$ 124	\$ 125	1.25%	2.26%
On The Park	\$ 109	\$ 113	\$ 116	\$ 111	\$ 105	(4.89%)	(0.81%)
Vintage	\$ 103	\$ 116	\$ 111	\$ 98	\$ 112	13.65%	2.07%
Hielscher	\$ 114	\$ 121	\$ 120	\$ 114	\$ 117	2.96%	0.79%
West	\$ 113	\$ 123	\$ 120	\$ 112	\$ 114	1.45%	0.21%
Park West	\$ 135	\$ 144	\$ 137	\$ 137	\$ 126	(8.02%)	(1.74%)
Park Place	\$ 111	\$ 124	\$ 128	\$ 121	\$ 122	0.76%	2.38%
Muirfield	\$ 123	\$ 138	\$ 140	\$ 123	\$ 125	1.74%	0.36%
Enclave / Stone Creek	\$ 116	\$ 119	\$ 122	\$ 113	\$ 117	3.81%	0.32%
Alta Mira	\$ 119	\$ 123	\$ 126	\$ 119	\$ 119	(0.21%)	(0.06%)
Fairway Estates					\$ 137	n/a	n/a
All Circle C Ranch Avg	\$ 112	\$ 121	\$ 120	\$ 114	\$ 116	1.31%	0.84%
% Change Yr / Yr	n/a	8.35%	(1.05%)	(4.78%)	1.31%		

Data obtained from Austin MLS on 1/5/11. In some cases new construction & FSBO homes are not included in MLS data & therefore are not represented.
Sell through rate based on S/W properties in Circle C Ranch neighborhoods in 2010. Data deemed accurate but not guaranteed.